

Message Text

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FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 3122

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, EGEN, ETRD, RP

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR US- RP ECONOMIC AND MBA NEGOTIATIONS

1. I WAS PLEASED TO LEARN DURING MY RECENT TRIP TO WASHINGTON THAT A TASK FORCE HAS BEEN SET UP TO STUDY ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATION OF AN AGREEMENT TO FOLLOW LAUREL- LANGLEY. I BELIEVE THIS IS A MOST IMPORTANT STEP BECAUSE WE CLEARLY HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THESE ISSUES AND I OBSERVED IN MY CALLS ON VARIOUS OFFICIALS THAT MANY OF THE OLD, FAMILIAR FACES OF THOSE WHO HAD HANDLED LAUREL- LANGLEY PROBLEMS IN THE PAST ARE NO LONGER THERE BECAUSE THESE MEN HAVE MOVED ON TO OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES. THEREFORE, I BELIEVE ONE OF THE VITAL FUNCTIONS OF THIS TASK FORCE WILL BE THE EXPOSURE OF THOSE WHO ARE NEW TO SOME OF THE INTRICACIES OF THESE PROBLEMS. IT ALSO OCCURRED TO ME THAT A REVIEW OF WHERE THE MILITARY BASES AGREEMENT RENEGOTIATION STANDS WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL TO THOSE IN WASHINGTON, BOTH NEW AND OLD, WHO ARE CON-
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CERNED WITH THIS QUESTION.

2. IN THIS FRAME OF MIND, WHEN I RETURNED TO MANILA, I ASKED MY STAFF TO BEGIN UPDATING AND SENDING BACK TO WASHINGTON THE PAPERS NEEDED TO GET US ALL TOGETHER ON THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THESE TWO IMPORTANT PENDING NEGOTIATIONS. WE WILL BEGIN TRANSMITTING THESE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

3. ON THE LAUREL- LANGLEY ISSUES, I HAVE ASKED THE MISSION'S L- L WORKING GROUP TO PUT TOGETHER POSITION PAPERS ON ALL KEY OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS. THESE WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS THEY ARE FINISHED AND WILL BE PRECEDED BY AN OVERALL APPRAISAL TO BE TRANSMITTED WITHIN ABOUT A WEEK. THIS PAPER WILL BE A COMBINATION OF TWO SUGGESTED IN MANILA 44 (JANUARY 2, 1973), ADDRESSING BOTH THE FUTURE TREATY AND THE TRANSITION ISSUES.

4. ON THE MBA TALKS, WHICH WERE TERMINATED IN JANUARY 1972, WE WILL BE SENDING A SERIES OF TABLES ON THE NON- AGREED ARTICLES, ON WHICH WORK HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED. THESE CABLES ARE ESSENTIALLY STATUS REPORTS AND ARE DESIGNED TO DEFINE FOR WASHINGTON THE PARAMETERS OF THE POSITIONS BOTH SIDES HAD ON THESE ARTICLES IN JANUARY 1972. THE CABLES ASK WASHINGTON TO REVIEW THESE POSITIONS WITH A VIEW TO PROVIDING NEW GUIDANCE OR RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE. WE HAVE ALSO PREPARED AN AIRGRAM FOR THE BACKGROUND OF THOSE NEW TO THESE MATTERS WHICH DESCRIBES THE MBA RENEGOTIATION ISSUE IN THE PERIOD SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF OUR LAST OVERALL STATUS REPORT (A-311 OF SEPTEMBER 8, 1971).

5. I HOPE THESE MATERIALS WILL ENABLE WASHINGTON TO FOCUS ON THE PROBLEMS THAT REMAIN TO BE SOLVED IN THE MBA RENEGOTIATION, AND THOSE THAT NEED TO BE RESOLVED RESPECTING LAUREL- LANGLEY, BECAUSE I THINK WE HAVE TO ANTICIPATE TALKING WITH THE FILIPINOS SOON ABOUT BOTH SUBJECTS AND WE NEED TO BE PREPARED. MARCOS REMARKED TO ME THE OTHER DAY THAT IT LOOKED AS IF HIS DESIRE TO START ALL THIS IN APRIL WOULD HAVE TO SLIP A BIT, BUT THAT HE STILL WANTED NEGOTIATIONS TO START AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
BYROADE

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